(c) whether the NDMC have allotted a few shops in the complex and several shops still remain on the Baird Lane;

(d) whether the Administrator of the NDMC have deliberately favoured in the allotment of shops; and

(e) the reasons for not adjusting all the shops in the complex and offering a large number of shops by Open Tender?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It was initially decided by the New Delhi Municipal Council to accommodate all the 92 rehabilitation shops at Baird Lane in the New Shopping Complex, but it was later considered more feasible to accommodate only half the number of shops in the said Complex in the first phase so as to allow NDMC to meet the huge expenditure incurred on construction of this Complex by allotting the remaining shops in the Complex on tender basis. The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi which subsequently considered the matter upheld the decision taken by the NDMC and also rejected the plea for any change in draw of lots. It is envisaged to accommodate the remaining 46 rehabilitation shops at Baird Lane in the Complex in Phase-II of its construction.

Shifting of Headquarters of D.G., Light House to NOIDA

2693. SMT. MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are reconsidering its earlier decision regarding shifting of Headquarters of Director General, Light House and Light Ship from R.K. Puram to NOIDA;

(b) the rationale behind purchasing residential accommodations in NOIDA some three-four years back when office building construction has not been finalised;

(c) whether the said accommodations would benefit only the new entrants of the Directorate as the most of the staff has already given General Pool Government accommodation in New Delhi; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The construction work of Office building at NOIDA was entrusted to the CPWD and is in progress. As the NOIDA authorities did not allot land for construction of residential accommodation and offered ready-built flats under housing scheme, residential quarters were purchased by the Department before completion of construction of the new Office building.

(c) and (d) The officers and staff working in the Department of Lighthouses & Lightships in the new office at NOIDA will not be entitled to get residential accommodation from the General Pool Government accommodation in Delhi and, therefore, the residential accommodation of the department at NOIDA would benefit the old as well the new entrants of the Department.

Fencing of Indo-Pak Border

2694. SHRI RAHAS BIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work pertaining to the fencing of Indo-Pak border has been abandoned;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are now planning to revive the fencing programme;

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) The work pertaining to the fencing on Indo-Pak border has not been aban-

doned. Only the work on Jammu border was held up due to firing from Pakistan side. Re-starting of fencing work on International Border in Jammu Sector is under active consideration of the Government.

Assistance to New Shipping Cooperatives by Financial Institutions

2695. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the financial institutions are not assisting new cooperative undertakings such as spinning mills;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is likely to affect the cooperative movement?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) No reports have been received that the financial Institutions are not assisting new cooperative undertakings such as spinning mills.

(c) Does not arise.

Barak Dam Project

2696. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of Barak Dam Project (Tipai Mukh);

(b) whether it is a fact that because of stiff resistance from the Government of Manipur, project could not be implement; and

(c) if so, the alternative action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Technical clearance subject to certain conditions was granted to Tipaimukh Dam Project (Barak Dam).

(b) and (c) Work is held up in absence of agreement between the concerned States of Assam, Manipur and Mizoram. The matter has been taken up with the Government of Manipur.

Financial Assistance for Irrigation Projects in Orissa

2697. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to release financial assistance to the irrigation projects in the districts of Bolangir and Kalahandi in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Loan Assistance of Rs. 38 crores under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme has been approved for Upper Indravati Project which benefits Kalahandi & Nawrangpur Districts of Orissa for the year 1996-97. An amount of Rs. 19 crores has been released to the Government of Orissa as first instalment.

Maintenance of Howrah Bridge

2698. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any system to check and inspect regularly the Howrah Bridge in Calcutta for safety and maintenance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) The regular checking, inspection and maintenance of Rabindra Setu (formerly known as Howrah Bridge) are duly carried out by Calcutta Port Trust.